1925, that the Baker letter was read into the *Congressional Record* by Congressman Robert L. Bacon.

With the passing of the Democratic administration, there was of course a tendency for the pendulum to swing back toward the center. But this only amounted to a tendency. To change the figure of speech, the United States had gone too far along the independence road to retreat. The popular conception of American duty to the Philippines under such conditions has never been more adequately or forcibly stated than by former President Theodore Roosevelt when he said:

> Personally I think it is a fine and high thing for a nation to have done such a deed [our work in the Philippines] with such a purpose. But we cannot taint it with bad faith. If we act so that the natives understand us to have made a definite promise, then we should live up to that promise. The Philippines from a military standpoint are a source of weakness to us. The present administration has promised explicitly to let them go, and by its action has rendered it difficult to hold them against any serious foreign foe. These being the circumstances, the Islands should at an early moment be given their independence without any guaranty whatever by us and without our retaining any foothold in them.[3]

The Democrats 'returned to power, and it was left for another Roosevelt, Franklin D., to make effective the promise of independence, which was done in the Tydings-McDufHe Law providing "for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands." Thereafter in 1935, Governor-General Murphy journeyed to Washington to confer

with the President and to clear up the threads of American-Philippine relations.

Uncertainty has ever been attendant on Philippine policy. It has been a severe handicap to the development of the Islands. That uncertainty is still with us, for although everyone hoped that the Tydings-McDuffie Law would finally dispel this uncertainty and allow business to chart its course for at

[8] *Everybody's Magazine,* January, 1915.